



# St. Alban's

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### Annual Parish Meeting

January 26, 2025

#### The Gathering

Welcome from the Rector and Blessing of the Meal  
Prayers: "For the Parish" BCP p. 817, "For a Church Meeting" BCP p. 818  
Approval of 2024 Minutes

#### The Vestry

##### Appreciation to the Outgoing Members

We gratefully acknowledge the service of these members who are departing the vestry:  
*Martha Hartle, Allison Kratt, Cheryl Nealy, Mike Sass, Joseph Torok*

##### Recognition of Current Members

We recognize these current members who will continue vestry service in 2025:  
*Sarah Hicks '26, Mike McDonnell '26, Dave Pylipow '26*  
*Connor Fulton '25, Matthew Goodson '25, James Kennedy '25, Annamarie Klemm '25*

##### Vestry Election

We present the slate of vestry candidates nominated to serve on the vestry:  
*Denise Badgett '26, Sandy Beetner '27, Zee Berl '27, Gordon Garrett '27, Mike Kingsley '27*

#### The Clergy and Staff

Report from The Rev. Carmen Germino, Rector  
Report from The Rev. Kevin Lloyd, Associate Rector/Davidson College Campus Minister  
Report from The Rev. Valerie Davis, Deacon  
Report from Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry *(written)*  
Report from John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster *(written)*  
Report from Nadia Rahaim, St. Alban's Weekday Preschool Director *(written)*

#### The Task Groups

Report from Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Chair *(written)*  
Report from Adrienne Bacchus, Outreach Committee Chair *(written)*  
Report from James Wally, Parish Hall Committee Chair *(written)*  
Report from Pam Sass, Parish Hall Coordinator *(written)*  
Report from Leslie Urban, Treasurer  
Report from Mike Sass, Junior Warden  
Report from Dave Pylipow, Senior Warden

#### Q & A

#### The Scattering

Benediction: The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

# MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ON

JANUARY 28, 2024

9:10 AM

## THE GATHERING

### Welcome from the Rector

Reverend Carmen Germino called the Annual Parish Meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. and welcomed the Church members in attendance.

### Prayer

Reverend Carmen Germino led the Church members in *Prayer for the Parish* and *Prayer for a Church Meeting* from the Book of Common Prayer.

### Approval of 2024 Minutes

Reverend Carmen Germino directed the Church members to refer to the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2023 that were incorporated into the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting Agenda. She asked if there were any changes or corrections to these minutes. Not hearing any changes or corrections, she declared that the minutes were approved as distributed.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VESTRY MEMBERS

Reverend Carmen Germino acknowledged the service of those members departing the vestry: *Jean Bonnyman, Jennifer Loher, Leslie Urban, and Danny Wiles.*

Next, Reverend Germino recognized these current members who may continue their vestry service in 2024: *Connor Fulton '25, Matthew Goodson '25, James Kennedy '25, Annamarie Klemm '25, Allison Kratt '24, Cheryl Nealy '24, Mike Sass '24, and Joseph Torok '24.*

## THE ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS

Reverend Carmen Germino presented the slate of vestry candidates nominated to serve on the vestry for a three-year term, including *Martha Hartle, Sarah Hicks, Mike McDonnell, Dave Pylipow.*

Next, Reverend Germino asked whether there were any nominations of candidates from the floor. Hearing none, she declared that nominations were closed, making this an uncontested election not requiring ballots. Jean Bonnyman, Senior Warden, moved that the proposed slate of candidates be elected by acclamation. No second was necessary because the candidate nominations were from the nominating committee. With no opposition, the candidates were approved by unanimous consent.

## REPORTS FROM THE CLERGY AND STAFF

Reverend Carmen Germino provided the Rector's Annual Report for 2023, incorporated into the meeting agenda. The report highlighted tireless efforts of: the Parish Hall Committee including its recent Groundbreaking ceremony on December 3, 2023; the Stewardship Committee which supports annual pledges; the Fellowship Committee, which includes Greeters, Oktoberfest Team, Men's and Women's groups, and the Ministry of Fun; and the Outreach Team, with its longstanding ministries and new partnership providing meals at Lifeline in Concord, N.C.; the St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART) which provided intergenerational events and a Lenten series on saints of color, and works around the Diocese.

In addition to appreciation of committees, staff and clergy, Reverend Germino focused on highlighting spiritual depth and celebrating growth. Spiritually, our Lenten series explored what it means to be in the wilderness through parishioner

artwork, reflections, and hikes. Fifteen people pilgrimaged to the Holy Land to enrich their understanding of a complex tapestry of faith and politics, and pray for peace. In 2023, we celebrated seven baptisms, and nineteen youth and adults confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church.

Reverend Kevin Lloyd provided the Annual Report from the Associate Rector and Davidson College Campus Minister incorporated into the agenda. He noted connections provided via Morning Prayer at St. Alban's via Zoom, Mondays and Wednesdays, and at Davidson College in person Tuesdays and Thursdays. Rev. Lloyd also alternates facilitating Bible Study. Connections between the St. Alban's and Davidson College communities include home-cooked meals, provided by parishioners with coordination by Elaine Carmann, and an 18-student pilgrimage to France as a joint effort by the college Chaplain's Office and Presbyterian campus ministry, supported by St. Alban's and the Diocese. Notably, Rev. Lloyd co-led an interdenominational Bible Study at the college, facilitated Youth Confirmation classes, and led a retreat at Lake Logan Episcopal Conference Center. Finally, Rev. Lloyd noted St. Alban's support for Liam Barr during his time in seminary and journey toward ordained ministry.

Deacon Valerie Colbert provided the Annual Report from the Deacon noting her participation in various councils and conventions and a litany of service ministries, including Refugee Ministries/Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Costa Rica, and the Augustine Literary Project. She traveled to the Holy Land and was St. Alban's coordinator of the back-to-school Backpack Blast for Gethsemane Baptist Church. She co-facilitated Children's Chapel with Derek Riccelli and Courtney Fossett. Deacon Colbert facilitated four virtual courses for the N.C. Diocese on Dismantling Racism, introduced the Lifeline meal-packing event in Concord, N.C., and regularly attends Adult Formation-Journeys, St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART) discussions, and Women's Group.

Also attached to the agenda were additional written annual reports provided by: Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry; John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster; and Patti Rossini, Preschool Director, for their respective ministries.

## REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS

Jean Bonnyman, Senior Warden, delivered the Annual Report from the Vestry, which concentrated on: individual contributions by parishioners, vestry, and staff. The Parish Hall launch and transition to the construction phase led by James Wally took center stage. The vestry was hard at work delivering many components to make St. Alban's an extraordinary place, in large part to the goals set at the beginning of 2023: to Grow, Gather, Serve. Jean noted that, as characterized by our many ministries, bible studies, and activities for all ages we have exceeded all our goals by being present for each other: to celebrate, to grieve, to learn, to help others, to have fun, and to give thanks.

Also attached to the agenda were additional written annual reports provided by: Mike Sass, Junior Warden, on the Building and Grounds; Danny Wiles, Chair of the Finance Committee; and Mike Kingsley, Chair of the Outreach Team; and Richard Colven and James Wally, Parish Hall Committee co-chairs.

The Parish Hall milestones included playground relocation, concept, design and permitting, bidding, financing, Diocesan approval, and ceremonial groundbreaking December 3, 2023. Physical construction began January 2, 2024 and expected completion is Fall 2024, after which the Parish Hall Committee would disband. Descriptions of construction phases and safety notes were provided in detail.

## NEW BUSINESS

Hearing no new business that requires voting, the floor was opened for general questions.

## THE SCATTERING

Rev. Lloyd delivered a benediction to close the annual parish meeting. Reverend Carmen Germino adjourned the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Torok  
Clerk of the Vestry

# Meet Our Vestry Nominees

## Denise Badgett

Alf and I have been members of St Albans for 10 years. I was raised as a Baptist and converted to an Episcopalian as an adult to align more fully with my faith journey.

I am an undergraduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and a graduate of the Darden Business School at UVA. My professional work focused primarily on the healthcare industry in the areas of Finance and Technology. Eighteen months ago, I retired and now enjoy the flexibility to support various organizations in a volunteer capacity.

We have two adult daughters, Samantha and Emily. This past year saw them reach major milestones as Sam received her DVM and is now at the LSU vet hospital and Emily was recently ordained as an Episcopal priest in Kentucky.

My activities with the church include supporting the coffee hour, being part of the annual campaign team, serving as the Treasurer for Galilee Ministries and supporting other outreach initiatives. Alf and I were also blest to have traveled to Israel with a group of amazing St. Alban parishioners led by Carmen.

I look forward to learning more about how I can serve this vibrant parish as it continues to make such a difference in the lives of its members and the surrounding community.

## Sandy Beetner

In 2022 I joined St. Alban's, where I was drawn by the warm welcome and the breadth of service of the St. Alban's family. I was immediately invited to serve with the Ministry of Fun, attended the Newcomers and Women's Groups, and joined the Supper Club. Most recently, I have explored the Outreach Committee and lead the 2024 Holiday Greenery Sale.

After a 35-year career in the Computer Graphics Industry, which allowed me to work and raise our family in eight cities, I retired to North Carolina to care for my husband. A long-time Rotary International member, I combined my passion for business and youth development by volunteering with and serving on the boards of multiple organizations including the Iredell County Children's Home, Charlotte Rescue Mission's Dove's Nest and The Respect Ability Foundation.

My four children, Gretchen, Eric, Riley and Kaitlin and two grandchildren, live coast to coast from Los Angeles to Greenville, NC! I am blessed to be able to spend significant time travelling to them and with them.

I am excited to serve the St. Alban's community in this season of opportunity and to grow in faith with the St. Alban's family.

## Zee Berl

Suzanne ("Zee") Berl moved to Davidson in 2020 (during Covid) from the NC mountains, where she was a member of St. James in Black Mountain. A lifelong Episcopalian, she has served the church in a variety of capacities over the years: lay reader, Sunday school teacher, chalice bearer and Vestry member.

During her 50-year conservation career, Zee has worked for and with land and water organizations at the local, state, regional and national levels. Here in Davidson, she has been active with Davidson Lands Conservancy and now leads the Pines Nature Organization.

She has 2 sons (living in Connecticut & Mexico), 6 stepchildren and a total of 11 grandkids.

I pray for God's grace as I offer my experience and expertise to St. Alban's through service on the Church Vestry.

## Gordon Garrett

### Executive Profile

Gordon is a high profile, innovative and dynamic business executive with 40+ years of senior leadership experience across broad industries, products, services and technologies.

### Summary of Experience

- **Successful entrepreneur** – Gordon has launched and managed to acquisition four technology companies.
- **Business and Management Consultant** – Gordon serves as a business and management consultant to local, regional, national and some international businesses. Department of Navy/ Raytheon Inc. mentor.
- **Strategic Advisory and Interim CEO** – Gordon serves as a strategic business advisor, CEO and board member for numerous high-tech start-up ventures and high-growth companies.
- **Economic Development Professional** – Gordon was appointed by the Governors Wise and Manchin of West Virginia to turn around the state's economic development entities.
- **Associate State Director** – Gordon is Associate State Director of the Kentucky Small Business Development Center network (KSBDC). In that capacity, Gordon works with impact business clients, coordinates the client focus efforts of the KSBDC and provides coaching and mentoring to KSBDC consultants.

## Mike Kingsley

My wife, Sharon, and I arrived in North Carolina in 2016 after serving over 32 years in the Air Force and retiring to the Cornelius area. We joined St. Albans shortly after moving into our home and really found a welcoming parish. I joined the Vestry in 2018 (my first time on a Vestry) to immerse myself in the working of the church. Sharon also joined the Ministry of Fun. Within a year I was also drawn to the Outreach Ministry and all the great service they do to our community and the world. I was then asked to lead the Outreach Committee in 2020 and had the great privilege to help that ministry grow until the end of 2023. I'm still an active member.

I grew up in Sacramento, CA and attended Cal State University-Sacramento where I received my bachelor's in accounting. I was commissioned in the Air Force in 1984 and served as a helicopter pilot in over five conflicts and countless deployments. I retired in 2016 and am now a self-employed consultant and part time advisor for foreign militaries.

Sharon and I have been married over 38 years, and we have three children and five grandchildren who keep us joyfully busy in our retirement. Sharon is still participating in Ministry of Fun events in between babysitting duties. We both enjoy the theater and are enjoying travelling together to see the world.

I look forward to returning to the vestry to serve our wonderful parish.

# Annual Report from the Rector

The Rev. Carmen Germino

Dear St. Alban's,

As we begin a new year, I am filled with gratitude and joy as I reflect on all that God has done in and through our church community over the past year. 2024 was a remarkable year for St. Alban's, marked by growth, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to our mission.

My brain divides up 2024 into three distinct parts: before, during, and after my sabbatical, (which was roughly April-June.) From the time prior to sabbatical, several key moments stand out in my memory:

- One of the most visible changes this year was the start of construction on our new Parish Hall. As with any major project, there were adjustments to be made, including the temporary loss of our parking lot, back walkway, and other familiar conveniences. Yet, I was continually inspired by how our congregation embraced these changes with grace and good humor. Your patience and adaptability reminded me of the strength and unity that define St. Alban's. And as they do all year long, our Greeter ministry provided a warm embrace of the many new faces we welcomed during this time.
- In January, we were blessed to host a phenomenal workshop for all ages with Lucretia Berry, author of *Hues of You*. This event, sponsored by StAART, provided a powerful opportunity to explore themes of identity and belonging while deepening our understanding of one another. The impact of this workshop was felt across all generations, and I am grateful to StAART for their leadership in making it possible.
- We did our final Cards for Kids in the Preschool and our last Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the nave/narthex. Good times were had by all, and with extra excitement knowing that, going forward, these events would find a new home in our future Parish Hall.
- Our Lenten journey last year was marked by meaningful learning and service. StAART led us in exploring the lives and legacies of BIPOC saints, enriching our faith and broadening our perspectives. During Lent, we also partnered with Lifeline Christian Ministries for an all-ages meal-packing event in Concord, organized by the Outreach Team. Together, we packed thousands of meals for those in need, embodying Christ's call to serve the least of these.
- Holy Week and Easter were particularly beautiful this year, as we gathered to remember Christ's passion and celebrate his resurrection. These services were a testament to the vibrancy of our worship life and the deep faith of our community.

In my absence during sabbatical, our clergy, staff, and vestry provided extraordinary leadership. In particular, thanks to **The Reverend Kevin Lloyd**, **The Reverend Valerie Davis**, and **The Reverend Leslie Steffensen** for their loving care of the community, and thanks to **Jessica Ewell**, **Courtney Fossett**, **Erin Garrett**, and **John Bailey** for everything each of them did to make this time go smoothly as well. Because of all of these folks, I was able to truly step away for a season of renewal and rekindling the sense of awe in God's goodness and majesty that every faith leader needs from time to time. I returned to find St. Alban's flourishing and felt profoundly grateful for the capable team that sustains our church. While I was away, we also said thank you and a fond farewell to **Patti Rossini**, who retired in May after eight excellent years directing our weekday preschool. Thank you, Patti!!! I am also so thankful to the entire community for expressing your care and ministry to all of us on staff who dealt with loss and illness in our families this year.

Following my return in the summer, we experienced another stream of milestones and noteworthy moments to finish out the year:

- Most significant is, of course, the successful completion of construction on our new Parish Hall, and the transition toward using the space. When we celebrated the dedication and ribbon-cutting on September 29, the stunning space was filled with *oobs* and *aabs*. Since then, this long-awaited project has already begun to transform our life together, creating new opportunities for ministry and fellowship. I offer special thanks to **James Wally** and **Mike Sass** for their tireless work in leading this effort. Their expertise and commitment were invaluable. Special thanks also goes to **Pam Sass** for raising her hand to be our volunteer coordinator for the Parish Hall—she has helped us in countless ways as we adjust to using the space and begin to get comfortable in it. As well, I am so grateful to the entire Parish Hall Committee and the Usage Committee for all the good work they have done this year.
- In the fall, we celebrated several wonderful fellowship events, including an über-fun Oktoberfest led by an amazing group of young adults, and a tremendous "All Things St. Alban's" event, organized by Deacon Valerie and the Outreach Team, showcasing the incredible breadth of our ministries and the many ways we serve one another and the wider

community. Then, in November, the Ministry of Fun team outdid themselves with a spectacular Parish Hall Ball, bringing us together to celebrate this milestone in true St. Alban's style. And on Christmas Eve, we experienced the joy of overflow crowds, welcoming over 800 people across our four worship services. What a privilege it is to share the good news of Christ's incarnation with so many.

Now, as we step into 2025, I am truly excited about the opportunities before us. And I am giving deep thanks for our vestry, who faithfully and humbly serve all of us with wisdom and love. Our continuing vestry members are: **Connor Fulton '25, Matthew Goodson '25, James Kennedy '25, Annamarie Klemm '25, Sarah Hicks '26, Mike McDonnell '26, and Dave Pylipow '26**, with **Leslie Urban** serving another year as our Treasurer. This is such a fabulous group and I am blessed to get to serve with all of them!

Stepping down from vestry service at this time are: **Martha Hartle, Allison Kratt, Cheryl Nealy, Mike Sass, and Joseph Torok**. Martha recently left NC to return to her former home in CT and we all miss her dearly, but even in her short time with us, she has made a huge impact, particularly in the areas of outreach, hospitality, and anti-racism. Allison has transformed our Annual Giving efforts, approaching it as a team-based ministry. Cheryl has joyfully and energetically been a force of positive momentum for outreach and for our preschool. For two years now, Mike has been among the most faithful and dedicated junior wardens I have ever known in any church. And Joseph has served with incredible attention to detail as our Clerk for four years. Wow, how blessed have all of us been by these awesome folks?!

Thank you, St. Alban's, for your faithfulness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to this community. I am honored to serve as your rector and look forward to all that God has in store for us in the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,  
Carmen+

## **Annual Report from the Associate Rector & Davidson College Campus Minister**

The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

Dear Saint Alban's Family,

What a year it has been for us! As I was writing my annual report this time last year, I still had a window that overlooked the early stages of our parish hall construction. Now that window is gone, and our new parish hall is "up and running". We are, of course, still navigating the transition to the beautiful new space, working out some of the kinks, and learning how best to utilize it. With that said, we are already seeing how the parish hall is increasing our capacity grow, gather, and serve. Like the new space, with its magnificent windows, the future for St. Alban's is even brighter with this amazing addition to our facilities!

I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving at Saint Alban's and Davidson College. Most days it feels like a "best-of-both-worlds" scenario for me. I do not take for granted the gift that it is to do ministry in these two exceptional communities. Even on those occasions where I have felt the pinch of competing demands between parish and campus, I have received nothing but support and understanding from the people of Saint Alban's and my staff colleagues. Thanks to all, and especially to Carmen, Valerie, Jessica, John, Courtney, Leslie, Erin, and Nadia. What an amazing team we have!

In addition to the parish hall, here are some other highlights of 2024 from my perspective:

- I continued to provide Morning Prayer opportunities both at Saint Alban's (virtually on Mondays and Wednesdays) and at the college (in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays).
- I also continued to enjoy the great privilege of helping facilitate our Wednesday morning Bible Study. I am very grateful to the members of this growing group for their faithful inquisitiveness and their willingness to go deep. My sermons are better because of them. We always welcome new participants to this group!
- Episcopal Student Fellowship met regularly on Sunday evenings during the academic year with Eucharist at 4:30 and dinner at 5:30. I am ever grateful to the members of Saint Alban's who have provided ESF dinners on a weekly basis. I am especially grateful to Elaine Carmann who coordinates this process. This is an essential part of our ministry to these young adults, and it is deeply appreciated by them and by me.
- In May, ESF bid farewell to six graduating seniors, celebrating them at a cookout at the Davidson Lake Campus.

- Courtney Fossett and I had the joy of facilitating another Confirmation Class for some of our youth. They were confirmed by Bishop Sam Rodman in November.
- Episcopal Student Fellowship had a wonderful and meaningful fall retreat at Lake Logan Episcopal Conference Center in October, helping set the tone for the 2024-25 academic year.
- In November we received 34 applications from Davidson students for the pilgrimage to the Taize community in France and selected 20 students for the trip. We are now planning for the trip, which will take place March 8-16. This will be my third time helping to lead this trip and I greatly look forward to returning to this remarkable place of spiritual formation, ecumenical encounter, and community building.
- I had the great privilege of presenting Liam Barr for ordination as a transitional deacon in June and then participating in his ordination to the priesthood in December. It has been a joy to watch Liam grow into his vocation. He is now serving as Curate at Holy Innocents in Henderson, NC, and providing priestly leadership to the Hispanic congregation there.
- This past fall Bishop Sam asked me to serve on the diocesan Commission on Ministry for the Priesthood, the appointed body that serves an advisory role in helping the bishop discern with those who are exploring a potential call to the priesthood. I began my three-year term this month. We meet several times a year to interview those you have put themselves forward for the discernment process and we make recommendations to the bishop.

I look back on the past year with gratitude for the remarkable ways that this parish community has come together to support one another and to bear witness to God's love and mercy as revealed in and through Christ. Even as we devoted significant time, energy, and resources to completing and opening the new parish hall, our clear commitment to loving and serving our neighbors in the wider world remains constant. I thank God every day for being called to serve in this place.

Yours in Christ,

Kevin+

## Annual Report from the Deacon

The Rev. Valerie Colbert

Highlights from 2024:

- Serving as Deacon at St. Albans, Davidson, N.C. since May 21, 2022.
- Attended the Absalom Jones Celebration at St. Augustine University, Raleigh, NC
- Completed Mental Health First Aid Certification sponsored by the Diocese of NC at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, NC
- Traveled to
  - Indianapolis, Indiana – “The Learning Tree” – ABCD Community Organizing Conference
    - Report out at St. John's Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC
  - Costa Rica (San Jose, Limon & Manuel Antonio) – “Sacred Stories” – Conversations with Afrodescendants on faith, culture, education, and their contributions to Costa Rica.
    - Report out St. Albans in the new Parish Hall
- Participated in the Diocese of NC Book study and tour of Wilmington, NC – “Wilmington's Lie,” by David Zucchino.
- Attended the cinematic showing of “A Case for Love,” featuring Bp ++ Michael Curry at the AMC theater at Concord Mills, Concord, NC
- Assisted with the facilitation of St. Albans Summer Children's Chapel
- Attended the Diocese of NC, Deacons' Retreat at “the Tree,” in Durham, NC.
- Participated in St. Albans Women's Book study led by Anne Patterson- “Jesus & Women,” by Kristi McLelland
- Attended Davidson College's – Historical Campus Tour on Colonialism, Enslavement and White Supremacy
- Attended the Diocese of NC Clergy Conference in Greensboro, NC.
- Attended the 209th NC Diocese Annual Convention in Winston-Salem, NC.
  - Hosted Clergy of Color Breakfast for the retiring Bp++ Michael Curry
- Serving on the Episcopal Diocesan Council of NC (2023-26) for Outreach & Justice ministries as the liaison for Refugee Ministries/ Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Costa Rica, and the Augustine Literary Project
  - Attended 10 Diocesan Council sessions at the newly acquired Diocesan House in Raleigh, NC, and at various churches around and in the Dioceses of NC.
- 2nd year serving as the Clergy of Color (Cochair) with Reverend Canon Franklin Morales



- Facilitator for 4 virtual sessions for the Diocese of NC's Introductory course – “Dismantling Racism”
- Monthly participation in St. Alban's Outreach Ministries meetings and events
  - Participated in the “Lifeline Meal Packing” event at Gibson Mill, Concord, NC
  - Proposed the parish's participation in Lydia's Loft
  - Participated in sharing “All Things St. Albans” in our new Parish Hall.
  - Participated in the set-up for “Room at the Inn” with DCPC
  - Serving on the Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte Personnel Committee
- Regularly attended monthly Adult Formation – Journeys, St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART) sessions and discussions, and the St. Albans Women's Group meetings

## **Annual Report from Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**

Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

I have been the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry for 5 ½ years and I am blessed to have the most adorable children, inspiring youth, and most supportive families. In addition, the amazing group of volunteers that my job could not be done without. In 2024, we continued to grow close to the attendance pre-pandemic. The children and youth engaged in Sunday School and due to our larger numbers, we continued with two children's classes, a younger class, age 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> grade and another, 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade. Age 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> has been completely full with at least 14 – 16 each Sunday, and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> has gone from a few to 7-8 in 2024. Our curriculum for the younger classes has been Episcopal Lesson Plans that Work. Despite trying a couple other curriculums for younger children, it seems that the Episcopal ones do exactly as they say, just work. Our Youth (Middle and High) Sunday School class continues to use (Teen Text) youth curriculum. All are engaging and interactive, although all our Sunday School teachers are also encouraged to be creative and teach to their passions like Godly Play. Summer meant VBS, held at the end of July inside the preschool classrooms with our larger gathering space outside under tents. We had amazing participation including a large youth presence that helped run some of our stations. In December, we were thrilled to have a great children's Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve with lots of participation including the face masks, crowns, and halos so that even those just attending could participate. The youth collected bears for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row to benefit homeless children go bags with Bridge of Hearts organization in Mooresville.

The Youth Group got a running start to 2024 with service projects including making tie-knot blankets for Cornelius Animal Shelter, a babysitting fundraiser for the ski trip, made treat bags and sent letters to Pines residents, and distributed mulch to the Prayer Trail. Youth outings to Valle Crucis for the ski trip finally came back, an Escape Room, SpareTime for bowling and games, played paintball, and going to Frankie's were so much fun. We also played fun indoor/outdoor games, at church with dinner and fellowship creating a wonderful, inclusive atmosphere to build a church youth community. The summer brought back the Youth favorite Water Fun Day with homemade giant slip and slide, water balloons, and cookout. We also went swimming at the Carrigan Farms Quarry in July. With kick off again in September, we held our annual Luau at the Lake at the Davidson Lake Campus. The remainder of the Fall included hosting an ice cream sundae bar for children, pumpkin carving, stuffing Turkey boxes, distributing Greenery flyers, a Christmas party, and our annual collection of Teddy Bears to name a few.

A Youth Leadership Team was inspired and born out of the work of our Family Ministry Support Team (FMST), led by inspiring and long-standing members of the youth group. They help to plan the schedule and each of them is encouraged to lead an event. We continue making connections, developing friendships, and having fun and fellowship. There is so much to be thankful for and celebrate as you can see below. Thank you so much for this opportunity to work with an amazing staff and wonderful church family who continue to help, support, and grow this program!

### **Accomplishments & Upcoming:**

- Hosted a very successful Ice Cream Sundae Bar for St. Alban's Children and their parents after Sunday services. We hope for this to become a new ongoing intergenerational event.
- Held an Easter Egg Hunt for our families and their children's enjoyment.
- Continued the work of a dedicated group of volunteers known as the Family Ministry Support Team, and established a Youth Leadership Team to help plan and execute Youth events.
- In-person VBS held inside and outside at the end of July with a total of 45 children, with at least 15 staff/volunteers and youth, who cheerfully made it happen.
- A total of 45 registered children for Fall 2024 Sunday School, averaging per week about 14 for Age 4-1st grade, 7 for 2nd -5th and 8 for Middle/High.
- Youth held their 5th annual drive for Teddy Bears for Bridge of Hearts, benefiting homeless children.

- In November, our Youth packed over 25 Thanksgiving Dinner boxes for Ada Jenkins.
- Nursery is working great downstairs in the Preschool area with two paid workers, both Davidson College students.
- Monthly planned and executed High School/Middle School Youth Event Highlights include:
  - January – Babysitting Fundraiser for Ski Trip, Tie-knot blankets for animal shelter
  - February – Ski Trip
  - March – St. Patrick’s Day, NCAA Basketball Bracket party
  - April – Paintball, Earth Day service spreading mulch on trail
  - May – End of Year party at Frankie’s
  - July - Quarry
  - August – Water Fun Day and Cookout
  - September – Luau at the Lake kickoff, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Beach Trip
  - October – Pumpkin Carving, distribute Greenery flyers, Scarrigan Farms
  - November – Thanksgiving Box service project
  - December – Christmas Party, Teddy Bear drive
- Family Palm Cross making event held with at least 15 families in attendance.
- Family Advent Wreath event held with over 12 families in attendance.
- Started a Youth Leadership Team to help take more ownership in events they want.
- Our Christmas pageant finally took place again in person with about 20 children participating and 2 youth narrating. We had animal masks, halos, and crowns again for those who wanted to join in the day of.

### Goals:

- Sunday School continue to grow, striving to maintain and increase children and youth attendance and registrations.
- Work towards building Sunday School attendance and getting back to our younger Sunday School being 3 classes, Age 4 – Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Further develop Youth Leadership Team to be an integral part of event planning and execution.
- Renew work with Family Ministry Support Team to support and build our programs.
- Execute a full Winter/Spring Youth Group schedule with continued increase in attendance and scope of events.
- Continue our annual Youth Group Ski Trip and new Beach Trip.
- Encourage and promote interest and participation in Episcopal summer camps, retreats, and Diocesan Youth events.
- Incorporate youth into more volunteer opportunities within the church.
- Recruit more adult volunteers to help with Sunday School and Youth Group.
- Youth group continue to thrive and grow, having fun, and giving back.
- Provide opportunities for children, youth, and families to connect and form meaningful friendships and relationships within our church family.
- Expand options for more fun, interactive, intergenerational family activities.

## Annual Report from the Music Ministry

John Bailey, Organist & Choirmaster

Many of the Psalms encourage us to offer our praise to God: for his provision in our lives; for his faithfulness; for the wonder of his creation all around us. Indeed, we have much for which we should be grateful. It is a privilege to lead music in a parish that is so willing to offer our thanks and praise to God in song, and in so many other ways. What a joy it is to worship together! Although Anglican worship can be quite beautiful, it can take a little while to feel comfortable for those to whom it is new. Using the patterns laid forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*, we have endeavored to make our worship services as user-friendly as possible. This last year or so, we have been blessed with an abundance of new people visiting our services from a variety of denominational backgrounds. That is such a blessing for us, and it is a joy to welcome new members of the body of Christ who have chosen to join us.

I am ever grateful for the work of Matt Presson with the children's choir and his leadership of the live-streaming team. As is always a goal in teaching, it is hoped that a seed is planted that results in a desire to learn more. Likewise, I am ever grateful for the time and talents that our parish choir offers to this parish. Their musical leadership has been, and continues to be, crucial to our worship together. We have welcomed a couple of new singers in the last year but are still in need of those willing to serve. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested or have questions about the choir. [john@saintalbansdavidson.org](mailto:john@saintalbansdavidson.org)

#### **Update on our musical instruments:**

- Our new piano in the nave continues to get "broken in" in this its first year.
- Our older spinet piano has now found a home in the new parish hall.
- Our pipe organ: Although age and construction are taking a toll on it, our organ continues its faithful life of service to our parish. I have kept leadership informed about possible future needs.

**Outreach:** Although it is difficult in a part-time position of this size, I have tried to represent us in the Davidson community. The Davidson Sings collaboration with the college, Davidson United Methodist and Davidson College Presbyterian last February was a great success and we were able to make a sizable donation to an arts organization serving underserved communities. It has been a joy to work with Charles & Mary Emerich as he continues volunteering as the director of the choral group at The Pines. They presented some wonderful music at several programs this last year. Hopefully, we will be able to have them sing for our parish in the future.

Again, I offer my thanks to God for leading music in such a diverse and welcoming parish that is so willing to learn and do. As any teacher will tell you, learning is largely dependent on a willingness and openness to learning. I offer my thanks to you for your willingness to offer our 'joyful noise' together, as the psalm phrases it.

Peace,  
John

Respectfully submitted on January 20, 2025.  
John Bailey, Organist & Choirmaster

## **Annual Report from the St. Alban's Weekday Preschool Ministry**

Nadia Rahaim, Preschool Director

The Preschool continues to offer a joyful, play-based, half day program with the generous assistance of the church. The 2024 calendar year encompasses two school years for us. Here are some highlights:

#### January-June 2024 (23/24 School Year)

- Registration for the 23/24 school year began in January 2023. We hosted several small group sessions and tours for families unfamiliar with St. Alban's.
- The preschool was gifted TWO SEEDS garden plots where the children had the most wonderful experience planting, exploring, and harvesting a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers during the Spring of 2024.
- 24 students graduated from the Fours classes in May 2024.
- In June we offered 3 weeks of summer camp for a total of 60 children, 20 per session, that included some of our friends from La Escuelita.
- The preschool was able to scholarship 12 one-week slots of summer camp.
- Patti Rossini retired, May 2024, as Director after 8 years of service to the St. Alban's community
- Incoming Director, Nadia Rahaim, spent several days/hours with Patti prior to her retirement, and some days after, working together to ensure a smooth transition for families and staff.

#### August-December 2024 (24/25 School Year)

- Nadia Rahaim solely began her role as Director beginning August 1, 2024
- We welcomed 10 staff members in August 2024.
- We welcomed 44 families (filling 50 classroom spots).

- We invited families to Popsicles on the Playground prior to the start of school so that families could begin to get acquainted with their new classmates, teachers, and program.
- We had individual visits with families and an Open House to continue with the “getting acquainted” process in early September.
- We welcomed Mary Pylipow as our new Preschool Board Chair and added additional members from the church and preschool in August.
- Our enrichment providers began in September 2024. The children participated in Stretch-n-Grow, Math and Science Nucleus, and Musical Theater.
- Wiggle Worship started in October. We gathered in the Nave with Rev. Carmen and Father Kevin and enjoyed sharing Bible stories with our preschoolers. We learned new songs, danced, and prayed together.
- We enjoyed wonderful holiday celebrations with our preschool families for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- We participated in fundraising projects including our Annual Giving Campaign, Fundraiser nights at Carrburritos and Whit’s Davidson and Oktoberfest.
- The preschool was able to provide two full scholarships and one partial scholarship for the 24/25 school year.

We are so thankful for the church’s support during this past year and can’t wait to see what God has in store for the preschool in 2025!

## **Annual Report from the Vestry**

### Dave Pylipow, Senior Warden

What a great year we had in the last 12 months! We completed our parish hall, welcomed a variety of visitors and new members, and served many people through our Outreach Ministries. And we continued to offer beautiful worship services and a variety of formation opportunities.

At the beginning of the year, the Vestry set three goals:

- Complete and successfully open and use our parish hall.
- Increase Volunteers according to interests and talent.
- Update our Mission Statement

Our beautiful Parish Hall opened in late September and has seen extensive use in the first months of operation. We enjoyed coffee hours, adult formation, community and outreach events and our exciting Parish Hall Gala. It is a wonderful facility that will serve us and our community for many years. Thanks are especially due to the Parish Hall Committee, led by James Wally, supported by Mike Sass, whose tireless efforts ensured completion of the building on time and within budget. The Vestry also formed a Parish Hall Usage Committee, led by Annamarie Klemm and James Kennedy, that included a variety of parishioners who had experience and knowledge in dining and hospitality endeavors. This group organized the purchase of supplies and developed protocols and instructions. A special thanks to Pam Sass who volunteered to be our Parish Hall Coordinator and led the many activities to get the parish hall up and running, and continues to manage the successful operations.

Allison Kratt worked with clergy and staff to include a list of volunteer opportunities as part of our Annual Giving Campaign. Deacon Valerie organized an impressive Ministry Fair to educate and recruit parishioners to serve in our various ministries. These efforts broadened the awareness of St. Alban’s many ministries and resulted in new people joining these ministries. Following Rev. Carmen’s return from her well-deserved sabbatical, the vestry worked with her on developing an updated mission statement. Considerable progress was made, and this responsibility will be handed off to the new vestry to add their perspective and complete the work. Stay tuned to hear the result in the coming months.

In addition to these priorities, the Vestry initiated work on hospitality in the coffee hour, especially following the 10:30 service. Mike McDonell led an effort to build on and formalize work begun by generous volunteers to offer delightful refreshments at that coffee hour, and we appreciate the many people who signed up and now deliver this ministry.

While we enjoy a brand new parish hall, our original building is now 24 years old and requires more frequent care and maintenance. Junior Warden Mike Sass, supported by Connor Fulton, has led efforts to ensure repairs and maintenance as needed. This work is often behind the scenes, and ensures all of us can worship, work and volunteer in a comfortable facility.

It is important to recognize our wonderful staff. We are blessed with faithful and talented clergy and a dedicated staff, all of whom work tirelessly to ensure that St. Alban's is a vibrant community, bringing the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to Davidson and the Lake Norman Community. They are supported by a great Vestry, all of whom contribute their time and talent in service of our parish. I am immensely proud of all of them and sincerely appreciate their commitment. Finally, I thank all of you, our parishioners for your generosity and active involvement in our many ministries. You have been faithful and generous donors to our annual giving campaign and to our parish hall fund raising efforts. In addition to your treasure, you get involved in our various ministries and share the Good News of the Way of Love with so many people. Thanks to all of you!

## **Annual Report from the Vestry: Buildings and Grounds**

Mike Sass, Junior Warden

For most of 2024, we concentrated on coordinating existing church operations with the Parish Hall construction project:

- Safety
- Parking plans
- Cleanup and return to normal

Of course, there was the continuation of keeping up with utilities and systems in an aging building, and tying them into a brand-new space:

- Fire panels
- Sewer issues
- HVAC

A large amount of campus cleanup happened:

- Tree trimming
- Tree and bush removal

New building items were installed:

- Downstairs water fountains
- New awning over the Preschool entrance
- New signage to add the Parish Hall

An annual refreshing – bench staining, power washing sidewalks, trimming of overgrown bushes, the addition of playground mulch - was made to these areas:

- Preschool
- Memorial Garden
- The Prayer Trail received new mulch

Many great people were involved with the numerous projects completed this past year. I appreciate the patience of all church members and preschool parents during a very challenging year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Sass  
2024 Junior Warden

## **Annual Report from the Finance Committee**

Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Chair

### The Budget Process:

Priorities are set jointly by the Vestry and the Rector.

The budget for 2025 was approved by the Vestry at its meeting earlier this month.

2025 Budget Goals include:

1. Continue to preserve St. Alban's overall sound financial position. As planned, we used a portion of our cash reserves in 2024 towards the construction of the parish hall, and we are committed to maintaining appropriate cash reserves to be prepared for future expenditures that will arise based on the age of our church (for example, all of the HVAC units are the originals – over 20 years old now) and for surprises that will inevitably arise. The budget approved by the vestry for 2025 is a balanced budget.
2. Increase annual pledge offerings – for Stewardship 2025, we have received 200 pledges totaling \$847,842, which exceeded our goal and is an 8% increase over 2024. If you haven't yet pledged, but would like to, please contact Erin Garrett (erin@saintalbansdavidson.org).
3. A portion of the desired increase in annual pledge offerings is to cover the operating costs of our wonderful new parish hall that was completed in late 2024, which are included in the 2025 budget. We took out \$252,000 in new mortgage debt as part of funding the cost of the parish hall, and the 2025 budget reflects our plan to pay this off in the first part of 2025.
4. Maintain the amount of the Outreach budget. The needs of our community and others for our support continue. The Outreach Committee, with Vestry's approval, determines and schedules outreach events. Our desire is for the outreach budget to be greater or equal to 10% of the total church operating budget, as this is analogous to a tithe to our greater community. Including support provided to the St. Alban's preschool, which is discussed below, the Outreach budget for 2024 is \$64,000. Apart from the preschool, Outreach support increased from \$40,000 in 2024 to a budgeted amount of \$49,500 in 2025.
5. Continue to support St. Alban's preschool, as an important mission of our church. The preschool has an independent budget that, prior to the pandemic, was self-balancing. However, the needs and desires for preschool and childcare services for many families are now different than before the pandemic, such that the preschool continues to look to the church for a relatively small portion of its funding needs. In the church's 2024 budget, the vestry approved funding of up to \$34,500, which included some nonrecurring costs related to the retirement and replacement of the preschool director. The actual needs of the preschool for 2024 came in lower at \$25,500 thanks to hard work by the preschool to minimize the level of support needed from the church. For 2025, the church's budget reflects support of \$14,500. We thank the preschool board for continuing to work diligently towards minimizing the level of support that might be needed from the church going forward while still providing the high-quality experiences for our students and parents that our preschool is known for.

#### The Accounting Process:

Income and expenses, along with variances, are reported monthly by Erin Garrett, our Finance Director, to the Vestry and Finance Committee.

- Once a balanced budget is set, it is not modified during the year.
- Any changes approved by the Vestry are reported as variances to the Revenue and Expense report.
- Both the change and the source of funds are accounted for.
- Independent accounting verification occur annually (the results for 2023 were excellent).

#### 2024 Financial Results:

Of note:

- For 2024 overall, our financial position remains solid. Due primarily to some unbudgeted maintenance and repairs work, primarily related to HVAC and plumbing matters, our expenses exceeded budgeted amounts for 2024, but this impact was more than offset by higher than budgeted revenues due primarily to a very generous level of non-pledge offerings.
- The parish hall project was completed on time and within budget.
- For 2024, Saint Alban's collected 97% of pledges, and non-pledge offerings were very strong.
- As noted above, the church's cash and liquidity position remains very solid.

For a detailed comparison of the church revenue and expense operating fund, contact the church office.

Thank you for your generous ongoing support!!

Respectfully submitted by:

Danny Wiles,  
Finance Committee Chairperson

# Annual Report from the Outreach Team

Adrienne Bacchus, Chairperson

As the chairperson of the Outreach Committee, I am filled with gratitude to experience the love people have for one another – the Clergy, the Vestry members, Outreach Team members, St. Alban’s parishioners offering their time/treasure/talent; and, the community partners near and far. Individuals, children and families in need are graced with God’s love as St. Alban’s scatters to serve!

A special thanks to Mike Kingsley for his continued support as we transitioned in April 2024 from Mike’s time of over 3 years as the Outreach Chairperson. Thanks to Martha Hartle for her Vestry Liaison role from February through October 2024 (prior to her move to Connecticut) and thank you to longstanding Outreach Committee members Mary Emerich, Elaine Carmann and Jackie Dienemann for their ongoing contributions.

The Outreach Committee met each month of 2024 with an average monthly meeting attendance of 12, including:

Rev. Carmen, Deacon Valerie, Mike Kingsley, Adrienne Bacchus, Cheryl Nealy, Kathy Miller, Connor Fulton, Elaine Carmann, Lisa McDonnell, Mark Mitrovich, Jackie Dienemann, Pete Sale, Martha Hartle, Alf Badgett, Mary Emerich, Darlene O’Toole, Anne Shandley, Elaine Carmann, Margot Leydic-Boyd, Geoff Allen, Tom Parrott, Laitan Alli, Joan Konen, Leane Turner, Kathy Bradford, Eunice Aikens-Affal and Sandy Beetner.

Our Team is very appreciative to the congregation, the Finance Committee and Vestry for your constant support.

A summary of St. Alban’s Outreach *Scatter to Serve* activities for 2024:

**All Things St. Alban’s** – an event held on October 27 in the new Parish Hall featured over 30 In-reach and Outreach missions with displays and volunteers connecting with St. Alban’s members, including youth. Leaders attended from Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Access 2 Success, La Escuelita and St. Alban’s Preschool. The Outreach Committee agreed that this event was quite successful and should be repeated in 2025. The pre-event exercise implemented by Rev. Carmen to build a scriptural foundation was especially beneficial to attendees. Numerous St. Alban’s members signed up to volunteer for the missions represented. Special thanks to Rev. Valerie and Deacon Valerie for their contributions and the Outreach Committee volunteers for sharing their joy.

**Lifeline Meal Packing** – during Lent, on Thursday, February 22, St. Alban’s volunteers totaling 55 including youth packed 1,296 meals for children and families facing hunger in North Carolina and abroad. Lifeline Christian Mission sent meals to WNC after Hurricane Helene. This event was highly successfully and engaged St. Alban’s members/families in a fun outreach activity. Thanks to Lisa McConnell for leading this Outreach event.

**Feed NC** – St. Alban’s volunteers gave a total of 220 hours of their time in 2024 to help cook, serve, and clean up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month. Thanks to Mary Emerich for ongoing coordination of these opportunities to serve.

**Back to School** – In partnership with Gethsemane Baptist Church, St. Alban’s had an opportunity to collect back to school donations. St. Alban’s members were very generous and thanks to Pete Sale for taking the lead in coordinating this event.

**Red Wagon** – food donations for Ada Jenkins’ food pantry are collected weekly at St. Alban’s. 1,143 pounds of food was donated by St. Alban’s parishioners in 2024.

**Thanksgiving Turkey Drive** – 27 food boxes with grocery gift cards were packed and delivered by St. Alban’s members. St. Alban’s Youth Group members decorated the boxes. Thanks to Cheryl Nealy and her daughter Erin for again leading this Outreach opportunity.

**Angel Tree** – This year’s Angel Tree event was St. Alban’s biggest ever with 94 requests for gifts! The donations were provided to La Escuelita families. Thanks to Mary and Charles Emerich for being the lead Santa Helper’s.

**Coat Drive** – This November’s ask for coat donations from St. Alban’s members was received with tremendous generosity. The coats were distributed in Mountain Lake Island, Statesville and Western NC. This Outreach event was in collaboration with Gethsemane Baptist Church in Davidson.

**Winter Wonderland Feed NC** – St. Alban’s members generously donated 70 pounds of toys to be part of a special day held at Feed NC in December for families in need.

**Sacred Stories/Diocese of Costa Rica** – Deacon Valerie traveled to Costa Rica in July as part of a group from the Diocese of North Carolina to meet people from the Diocese of Costa Rica in person and celebrate cultures, histories and stories. The Diocese of Costa Rica is a diocese made up predominately of people of color with roots in Jamaica and other islands. Participants discussed issues that people of color, especially those descended from African and Afro-Caribbean heritages, face both in Costa Rica, the US and the world.

**La Escuelita Bilingual Preschool** – St. Alban’s has members participating as volunteers at this bilingual preschool in Davidson, including the annual Las Posadas event.

**Safe Alliance** – St. Alban’s parishioners, Anne Shandley and Jackie Dienemann, engaged with Safe Alliance staff to understand need for their waiting room upgrades (painting, new furniture, new curtains). The planning occurred in 2024 with plan for the work to be done by St. Alban’s volunteers in early 2025.

**St. Alban’s Weekday Preschool** – on-going opportunities available for St. Alban’s members to be involved through substituting, serving on the preschool board, assisting in the office, reading in a classroom, or sharing a special talent.

Outreach speakers/guests to St. Alban’s in 2024:

**Marion Medical Mission** – thanks to Hayden for meeting with St. Alban’s parishioners at *All Things St. Alban’s* in October to share updates on providing communities in Africa with sustainable source of clean, safe drinking water through the installation of wells.

**Davidson Housing Coalition** – Connie Wessner, Executive Director of DHC, presented to the Outreach team during June’s meeting. Additionally, Alf Badgett, Mike Kingsley and Adrienne Bacchus of St. Alban’s and Elaine White and Pastor Flowers of Gethsemane Baptist Church held meetings to formulate a potential small home repair program for the West Davidson neighborhood. Davidson Presbyterian Church and GBC are historic black churches; they and She Built This City are potential partners. Adrienne and Alf updated Vestry members, Rev. Carmen and Deacon Valerie throughout the Fall 2024 regarding the Outreach Committee’s interest in applying for an Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina grant in early 2025 – to provide seed funding for the program. St. Alban’s historically has volunteered with local Habitat for Humanity builds; however, those local opportunities ceased with increased land cost and HFH focus to build in other regions. The Outreach Committee is eager to re-engage St. Alban’s volunteer builders to help local neighbors. Thanks to Alf for taking the lead; his work background and his volunteer experiences with HFH are gifts.

**Lydia’s Loft** – Darlene O’Toole, a St. Alban’s parishioner and 20-year-long volunteer at Lydia’s Loft shared enthusiasm and joy as she told the Outreach team about the Lydia’s Loft mission and a call for needed items. Lydia’s Loft with Vestry approval is a new St. Alban’s Outreach mission organization. St. Alban’s members have opportunities to donate items and volunteer.

**Access 2 Success** – Andrew Lovedale and Laura Knight presented on successes of A2S as the organization works to provide sustainable programs that generate positive change for Nigerian children and their communities. The 2024 St. Alban’s donation to A2S was matched by an anonymous donor. A2S set up a display and connected with parishioners at *All Things St. Alban’s* event in October.

**Room In The Inn** – Pastor Robert Alexander from DCPC provided an update on the ministry and 2024-25 needs. St. Alban’s has renewed involvement and began providing food and volunteers for RITI in December 2024 and will continue throughout the winter season. Overnight guests who are experiencing homelessness stay at DCPC’s Congregation House. Thanks to Cheryl Nealy and Mike Kingsley for taking the lead with St. Alban’s coordination of volunteers.

**Neighborhood C.A.R.E. Center** – Manny Rosado was guest presenter at the November Outreach meeting and shared updates on the Cornelius organization’s volunteer opportunities. Thanks to Pete Sale for taking the lead to explore volunteer opportunities for St. Alban’s members.

**Augustine Literacy Project** – St. Alban’s parishioner, Sue Bartlett, shared information about her rewarding experiences as an ALP volunteer. Deacon Valerie and Sue provided information at the *All Things St. Alban’s* event to potential St. Alban’s volunteers.



**Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte** – “Galilee Sunday” was held at St. Alban’s on April 14. The Outreach Committee looks forward to engaging parishioners in volunteer opportunities.

**Special Monetary Offerings** – St. Alban’s gives to the United Thank Offering near Thanksgiving, to Episcopal Relief & Development at the beginning of Lent and to Thompson Child & Family Focus on Mother’s Day. Thanks to St. Alban’s parishioner Kathy Miller for continuing to raise awareness about ERD.

May God continue to bless our efforts as we “scatter to serve” in His name.

## **Annual and Final Report from the Parish Hall Committee**

James Wally, Parish Hall Committee Chair

2024 marked the completion of the Parish Hall Program, which is the largest capital investment St. Alban's has pursued since the relocation of the parish from Lorimer Road chapel to its current facilities. In the supporting Capital Campaign, the Parish Hall Committee advertised to the parish that a budget of 2.4M would be needed in order to deliver the program. In the years preceding 2024, the parish hall committee completed:

- Professional services contracting for architectural and engineering design
- Capital Campaign to secure necessary funds to implement program
- Relocation of the church playground site and construction of new playground facilities
- Design, permitting, and bidding of the building project
- Ceremonial groundbreaking for the parish hall building on December 3rd, 2023

On January 2nd, 2024 notice to proceed construction was issued to the building general contractor, and substantial completion of the building was achieved on September 24, 2024; with final punchlist items completed in October. Leading up to the start of construction, the committee committed to delivery of the building before the 2024 annual Oktoberfest event. Construction, furnishing, and activation of the parish hall space was successfully completed, and the following bullet points are of particular note:

- Program completed slightly **under** the 2.4M budget
- Delivery of building to parish was achieved in late September **ahead** of 2024 Oktoberfest event

The Parish Hall Committee was formed in 2019, and upon completion of our mission disbanded in October of 2024. This is our final report, and it should be stated once more that St. Alban's is indebted to the hard work which this group (*Jean Bonnyman, Carmen Germino, Eileen Keeley, Allison Kratt, Kevin Lloyd, Rbett Mabry, Lisa McDonnell, Hank Patch, Dave Pylipow, Alex Slawson, Leslie Urban, Danny Wiles, Mike Sass, James Wally*) discharged. The Parish Hall Committee thanks St. Alban's for entrusting us to implement the project on behalf of the parish.

Respectfully Submitted,  
James Wally, Chair  
Parish Hall Committee

## **Annual Report of Parish Hall Operations**

Pam Sass, Parish Hall Coordinator

- The Parish Hall Usage Committee (James Kennedy, Dave Pylipow, Annamarie Klemm, Sue Bartlett, Cheryl Nealy, Lorraine Edwards, Joan Carpenter, Diane Hamilton, Pam Sass, Lisa McDonnell, Jean Bonneyman, Connor Fulton, Reverend Carmen and Reverend Kevin) met several times over the past year to assign duties and roles and brainstorm what might be needed in the coming year to use and run the Parish Hall.
- A job description was created for the Parish Hall Coordinator (Pam Sass volunteered for this temporary role.)
- Documents from other churches were considered to use as our own guidelines.
- As the Parish Hall was completed, all prior kitchen and hall purchases (tables, chairs, dishes, etc.) were moved from other storage rooms into the new space.
- Deficiencies were identified (racks, carts, mats, cleaning products, etc.) and purchased.

- The equipment was checked to determine if each was operating correctly, and if not, a service person was called in to adjust and get the equipment in working order. Also, parishioners and neighbors with special skills assisted to get each component completely ready to use (James Kennedy, Amy Otterline, Todd Brewer)
- Simple instructions for each general area were printed and posted for general use. (Lisa McDonnell and Lorraine Edwards). Exit checklists and diagrams were created for those using the space.
- The AV system was installed after occupancy and was adjusted until working correctly. Matt Presson and Hank Patch assisted with operations documents and training of key church people for general use.
- Pam Sass offered training sessions on all Hall and Kitchen components and scheduled them for representatives of all our church groups.
- We are delighted that the new Parish Hall has been used for:
  - The Dedication
  - Sunday Coffee Hours
  - Sunday morning Faith Formation events
  - All Things Saint Alban's
  - Packing Thanksgiving baskets
  - Parish Hall Ball
  - La Posada
  - Advent Wreath Making
  - Creche Show and Tell
  - Funeral reception
  - Wedding vow renewal
  - Parishioner birthday party
  - St. Alban's Annual Meeting
  - Cards For Kids
- And plans for future use:
  - AA Meetings
  - Lenten Soup Suppers
  - Outreach lunch packing
  - Shrove Tuesday
- Things that have been considered:
  - Yoga classes
  - Preschool after care location in the Winter
  - Regular Sunday morning breakfasts
  - Super Bowl Party

We hope all our St. Alban's groups begin to use the new space and plan wonderful ideas for future events. Next year, we will begin opening the space up for outside groups to reserve.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Pam Sass, Parish Hall Coordinator